

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 19, 2015
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

SENATE BILL NO. 376 SD 2
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 376 SD 2. This bill establishes a farm to school program within the Department of Agriculture and creates a coordinator position within the Department. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not adversely affect the priorities in the Administration's budget.

The Department believes in the potential of the school food network to greatly increase the amount of locally-grown fruits and vegetables that are procured within the state and has participated in a number of task forces and working groups surrounding this topic that reported to the legislature including: a report to the 2012 Legislature resulting from House Concurrent Resolution 167 (2011) and a report to the 2010 Legislature per Senate Concurrent Resolution 121 (2009). The Department continues to be an advocate for increased consumption of local agricultural commodities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





SB376 SD2
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
House Committee on Agriculture

March 19, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Room 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB376 SD2, which will improve community health and further the state's food self-sufficiency goals, by establishing a statewide farm-to-school program within the Department of Agriculture.

SB376 SD2 takes an integrated approach to simultaneously improve the health of Hawai'i's students and their families, while also supporting Hawai'i's local food industry. The farm-to-school program promoted by this measure includes nutrition education, a school garden component, and the use of locally-grown food in school meals. Such a farm-to-school program may be an important step towards achieving better health outcomes and greater food self-sufficiency in our islands.

By incorporating garden-based learning into school curricula, this measure will help children learn healthy eating habits, gain an appreciation for how their food is grown, and learn about the importance of agriculture, lessons that they may then share with their families and larger community. Such outcomes will promote OHA's strategic priority of Maui Ola (Health), which represents a commitment to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians. The concept of Maui Ola considers the entirety of our well-being as contributing to the health of ourselves and the larger community. Consistent with this concept, by educating children through garden-based learning, and fostering their and their communities' appreciation for outdoor farming activities, as well as for fresh and healthy agricultural products, the farm-to-school program promoted by this bill will benefit community health and well-being now and into the future.

In addition to supporting healthy choices and healthy children, this bill will support the state's food self-sufficiency goals, by increasing support for Hawai'i's local agricultural economy. In adopting the targets of the Aloha+ Challenge, the state has committed to doubling local food production by 2030. OHA notes that the principles underlying the Aloha+ Challenge support a renewed commitment to the sustainability practiced by our ancestors, and perpetuated today through the traditional concept of malama 'āina. **By sourcing school meals to local farms, this bill invests in local food production, which may in turn lead to more agricultural jobs, greater incentives for farmer training, and the preservation of agricultural land for agriculture.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 8:30 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 376 SD2 – RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 376 SD2, which establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

Although we defer to the Department of Agriculture on the fiscal and management implications of SB 376 SD2, we believe that this is an effective approach to further the goals of greater use of local farm products within the public school system, and a coordinated approach to agricultural, health and nutrition education within the schools.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, has been active in the discussions around these issues. We will be glad to continue to work, as our resources permit, with all the parties concerned to promote greater use of local farm products and further development of a comprehensive and effective Farm to School Program.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Mason K. Chock
Gary L. Hooser
Arryl Kaneshiro
KipuKai Kuali'i
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 17, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

SB 376, SD 2 RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

House Committee on Agriculture

Thursday, March 19, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 376, SD 2 Relating to a Farm to School Program. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

SB 376, SD 2 establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program in the Department of Agriculture, and appropriates funds for a coordinator position to oversee the State's farm to school program. The purpose of the farm to school program is to improve the health of children through the support of school gardens, health and nutrition education, agriculture, and the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks. A successful farm to school program can increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and most importantly, improve academic achievement and student behavior. Furthermore, the coordinator will be able to collaborate with stakeholders to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in Hawai'i's schools.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

MASON K. CHOCK
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:mn

COUNTY COUNCIL

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March 17, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

SB 376, SD 2, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

House Committee on Agriculture

Thursday, March 19, 2015

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 376, SD 2, which establishes a Hawai'i farm to school program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and as an individual Councilmember on the Kaua'i County Council.

Establishing a farm to school program in the State of Hawai'i will increase educational opportunities for our *keiki* and provide the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks. Through education and by engaging our students through farm to school activities at an early age, it will encourage them to live healthier lifestyles. This may reduce ones susceptibility to chronic disease and other health conditions later in life. Furthermore, SB 376, SD 2 is in line with the State's objective to encourage the purchase and use of Hawai'i grown produce.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the House Committee on Agriculture to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALI'I
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:mn

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 9:45 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB376

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS SB 376, SD2, RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM, which establishes the Hawaii Farm to School Program and a Farm to School coordinator position. Appropriates funds. Effective Date 7/1/2050. (SB 376, SD2)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB376

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth in Support of SB376 SD2
Relating to a Farm to School Program
House Committee on Agriculture
19 March 2015, 8:30am, Room 312**

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 60 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB376 SD2, which will establish the Hawai'i farm to school program and create two Farm to School Coordinator positions - one at Department of Agriculture and another at Department of Education. This will jointly increase institutional purchasing of local foods and to coordinate a framework that supports agricultural education from pre-school through college.

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 60 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

SB376 SD2 will help advance action on the Aloha+ Challenge's local food production 2030 target: "At least double local food production - 20-30% of food consumed is grown locally." The Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'ōia is a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The Aloha+ Challenge was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of **SB376 SD2**, which is an important investment in Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org>



Testimony: SB 376 SD2
Thursday March 19, 2015
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Nancy Redfeather
Director Hawai'i Island School Garden Network
State Supervisor: FoodCorps Hawai'i
The Kohala Center – Hawai'i Island

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice-Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

Farm to School was a natural part of Hawaii's school food procurement system until the late 1970s. Through the 70s, most schools on Hawai'i Island had large school gardens tended by students and teachers and the majority of the produce went directly into the cafeteria and was incorporated into student meals. It is not a new idea to procure locally, but an idea that was lost and is now being rethought in a way that focuses on both improving student health and achievement and connecting students to core curriculum through project-based, experiential learning in school gardens and school farms. These outdoor classrooms are perfect learning laboratories where students can "practice" the "big ideas" of both the Common Core and the Next Generation Science Standards.

As the State Supervisor for the FoodCorps Hawai'i Program, a Hawai'i State Americorp Program, we currently place 9 full time Garden/Nutrition Educators/Service Members in 12 public schools on 3 Islands. These young leaders work directly with their Administration and Faculty to create school garden programs and curriculum that align with the school's educational goals, and engage our youth in meaningful and inspiring work. They also assist the USDA/ Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Programs on each campus.

Bringing this education to all the children in Hawai'i requires a broader partnership between community and government/institutions/agencies.

As you know, it has long been a priority for Hawai'i to develop and grow food self-reliance. A Farm to School program, focused on increasing local institutional purchasing and creating a framework and support for school gardens and school farms, will finally

place staff positions in State Agencies that can work together to strategize, prioritize inter-agency interests, and create a road map to grow production for local purchasing, and help to create future generations of farmers and knowledgeable citizens who know the value of locally produced foods and support their consumption.

Healthy habits are taking root all across the county. Farm to School Program Legislation has passed in 20 states with another 17 introducing Legislation. An investment in the health of Hawaii's students is also an investment in the health of local economies. In 2012, school districts in the US purchased over \$386 million in locally produced food from farmers, ranchers, fisherman and food processors and manufactures. Farm to School programs provide access to new and diversified markets. Individual producers across the US are experiencing a 5% increase in income by participating in local programs, and forward contracting with producers is becoming increasingly popular.

In the latest SAWS Survey (Safety and Wellness Survey) conducted by the Department of Health from school year 2012-2013, 192/241 schools have school gardens, 88% use it daily for instructional purposes and 68% use the garden for the sciences and STEM.

From our 2012 Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui (HFSSGH) DOE Survey of School Gardens, there are over 21,577 students, 830 teachers, and 1,500 regular volunteers working over 1,000 hours per week, growing food, flowers, and herbs on over 30 acres of land across the state.

Funding for a school garden educator position and equipment needs were identified as the highest priorities of the 168 schools that took the survey. Broader community involvement and cultivating sustainability were their highest vision priorities.

We are so fortunate to have the USDA standing by to be a major partner with our state agencies in the development of a Farm to School Program. The Kohala Center recently received a USDA Farm to School Grant to identify best practices in the USDA/FFVP Program statewide, increase capacity and support for the State HFSSGH, and align school garden activities with the Common Core and Science Standards.

While non-profits and community organizations can initiate change and move programs forward, there comes a time when government and agencies are needed to grow the partnership. That time is now. The investment made in these two positions will be just the catalyst needed to grow our agricultural economy, increase student health, and pave the way for a brighter food future for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,
Nancy Redfeather
The Kohala Center

Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui



Coordinated through The Kohala Center

TESTIMONY

House Committee on Agriculture
March 19, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

Kaua'i

Tiana Kamen
Farm to Keiki Preschool Program

Keone Kealoha
Mālama Kaua'i
Kaua'i School Garden Network

O'ahu

Hunter Heavilin
O'ahu Farm to School Network

Natalie McKinney
Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation

Debbie Millikan
Iolani School

Elysa Ermatinger
Hoa 'Āina O Makaha

Mahealani Matsuzaki
Kamehameha Schools
'Āina-Based Education

Terri Langley
MA'O Organic Farms

Jayne Grzebik
University of Hawai'i
Master Gardeners

Moloka'i

Harmonee Williams
Sustainable Moloka'i
Moloka'i School Garden Network

Maui & Lana'i

Lehn Huff
Maui & Lana'i School Garden Network

Nio Kindla & Kirk Surry
Grow Some Good

Hawai'i Island

Nancy Redfeather & Donna Mitts
The Kohala Center
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network

Statewide

Jennifer Ryan & Leimomi Dierks
Hawai'i Department of Health

Dexter Kishida
Hawai'i Department of Education, SFSB

Jennifer Dang
Hawai'i Department of Education, HCNP

Lillian Coltin
Hawai'i Department of Education

Andrea Snow
FoodCorps

Pacific Region

Dr. Koh Ming Wei
Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

SB376 SD2: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **strongly supports SB376 SD2**, which establishes a farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

Formed in 2010, the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui is a statewide network comprised of five island-level networks, along with representatives of the Hawai'i Departments of Education and Health, whose mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's statewide farm to school and school garden movement.

Please consider the following suggested amendment for page 3, line 10:

"The purpose of the farm to school program shall be to improve student health, develop an educated agricultural workforce, and enrich the local food system through the support and increase of local food **production, processing, distribution, and** procurement for the State's public schools and other institutions, the acceleration of garden and farm-based education for the State's students, and the expansion of the relationships between schools and agricultural communities."

The primary charge of a state-level farm to school coordinator in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) will be to **plan and work strategically** with other state agencies, businesses, and community stakeholders for the creation of a vibrant state-level farm to school program, with a particular focus on increasing the **supply, processing, and distribution** of locally grown foods as outlined in the section below.

Proposed duties of the HDOA Farm to School Coordinator:

- Organize, conduct, and assess inter-agency State Strategic Planning for a coordinated Farm to School and School Garden Program for Hawai'i.
- Identify grant opportunities (federal and local) and strategic partnerships with similar interests (such as increasing local food production, creating new agricultural markets, growing farmers, and increasing children's health metrics and ecoliteracy) that would support funding for a coordinated inter-agency Strategic Farm to School and School Garden Plan.
- Identify federal and state incentives that could grow diversified agriculture, agricultural education programs, and increase farm food safety certification.
- Increase cooperation among farmers through the formation of local cooperatives or centralized gathering and processing facilities (food hubs).
- Connect distributors with local farms; facilitate account setup and product scheduling.
- Educate HDOE School Food Services Branch (SFSB) and distributors on availability and seasonality of products in their regions (product availability list).
- Help draft agreements between HDOE SFSB and distributors to include:
 - access to buying records showing product origins;
 - preference for locally grown and produced items.

- Assist local farms and school gardens with food safety and GAP (good agricultural practices) certification; develop a process with HDOE SFSB to allow for the serving of school garden produce in school cafeterias (“Garden to Cafe”).
- Work with the US Department of Defense (DoD) to purchase more Hawai‘i local agricultural products (a portion of the food for HDOE SFSB is sourced from DoD).
- Support increased agricultural literacy for students and communities through farm field trips, farmer visits to schools, and collaboration on agriculture education initiatives including the ability to work directly with the Hawai‘i Department of Education.

A successful statewide farm to school program will also depend on collaboration with the State Procurement Office and their facilitation of increased procurement of locally grown foods by all state agencies through the development of a special innovative procurement process (SB1228 and HB1028).

The Hawai‘i Farm to School and School Garden Hui acknowledges and thanks the Hawai‘i State Legislature for its interest in and support of farm to school, as evidenced by the many farm to school bills introduced each session. **The state-level farm to school coordinator established through the passage of this bill will provide the necessary focus, expertise, direct action, and informed policymaking so essential to the realization of a vibrant and successful farm to school program for Hawai‘i.** Nineteen other US states and the District of Columbia have already established state-level farm to school coordinators in their departments of agriculture, education, and/or university systems as of February 2014, in recognition of the value brought by a coordinated and strategic effort lead by appropriately skilled and assigned individuals. The investment by our state in the creation of a state-level farm to school program will realize significant returns in the areas of **agriculture, education, health, and the economy.**

The Hawai‘i Farm to School and School Garden Hui looks forward to working closely with the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and other state agencies and community stakeholders to build a strong state-level farm to school program on behalf of a healthy future for all of Hawai‘i’s keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Lydi Morgan Bernal
Coordinator

Hawai‘i Farm to School and School Garden Hui
schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org
www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org

kōkua hawai'i foundation



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB376 SD2 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE March 19, 2015, 8:30 AM

Aloha,

Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation **STRONGLY** supports SB376 SD2, establishing the Hawai'i Farm to School Program and a Farm to School Coordinator position in the Department Agriculture.

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2003 to support environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i. Our programs include 'ĀINA In Schools, 3R's School Recycling, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Field Trip Grants, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation Mini-Grants, and Plastic Free Hawai'i.

'ĀINA In Schools is a farm to school initiative launched in 2006 that connects children to their local land, waters, and food to grow a healthier Hawai'i. In addition to encouraging the use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in school meals and snacks, the program includes a standards-based nutrition, garden, and compost curriculum that empowers children to grow their own food, make informed food decisions, and reduce waste. 'ĀINA In Schools also promotes field trips to local farms, chef cooking demonstrations in classrooms, as well as waste reduction, garden, and cooking educational opportunities for families and community members. We work directly with 16 O'ahu elementary schools that have implemented the program school-wide. We have also trained an additional 146 educators from nearly 100 schools from across the state in the use of our 'ĀINA garden, composting, and nutrition curricula.

Over the last eight years, we have made great strides in the realm of school gardens and nutrition education. However, procurement of locally grown produce for school meals has been especially challenging. Establishing a state-level Farm to School Program will bring a level of expertise and commitment that will bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into schools statewide. The Hawai'i Farm to School Program will further bolster the reach and impact of the garden and nutrition educational programs that have been implemented by non-profit organizations across the state.

We support Hawai'i in becoming the 20th state that has state-level farm to school program. These 19 states with state-level farm to school programs have seen great increases in the amount of locally grown food served in schools and positive health, behavioral, and economic impacts of their programs. Please see the attached document from the National Farm to School Network, "The Benefits of Farm to School" for specific examples and statistics of how farm to school programs benefit students, schools, and local economies.

We strongly urge you to vote in support of SB376 SD2!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack Johnson,
Co-Founder, President

Kim Johnson,
Co-Founder, Executive Director

Natalie McKinney,
Director of Program Development

www.kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

P.O. Box 866, Hale'iwa, HI 96712 • Tel: (808) 638-5145 • Fax: (808) 638-0757 • info@kokuahawaiiifoundation.org

The Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports environmental education in the schools and communities of Hawai'i.





THE BENEFITS OF FARM TO SCHOOL

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**NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK**

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

The National Farm to School Network is an information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing and food and agriculture education into school systems and preschools.

Farm to school enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and preschools. Farm to school implementation differs by location but always includes one or more of the following:

Procurement: Local foods are purchased, promoted and served in the cafeteria or as a snack or taste-test.

Education: Students participate in education activities related to agriculture, food, health or nutrition.

School gardens: Students engage in hands-on learning through gardening. Farm to school empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

Farm to school activities provide a variety of benefits to students, parents, schools, communities and food producers. This document outlines those cross-sectoral benefits and cites the research behind them. Farm to school is growing our future leaders, consumers, producers and community members.

Cross-sectoral benefits of farm to school



PUBLIC HEALTH

Farm to school activities provide healthy food options and nutrition and food-based education to influence healthy eating behaviors and healthy lifestyles in children. Through the use of school and community gardens, farm to school can contribute to healthy neighborhoods where communities have a better understanding of how food is grown and how food affects their health and wellness.



ECONOMY

Farm to school provides economic development opportunities to producers (i.e. farmers, ranchers, fishers) and laborers, distributors, processors, cooks and foodservice staff, as well as others who support the local food system.



EDUCATION

Farm to school can support educational outcomes for students by increasing student access to healthy foods in schools and promoting educational activities that help children and families learn about and develop skills related to healthy eating. Farm to school curriculum and experiential activities are also a platform to teach core content areas such as science, math and language arts.



ENVIRONMENT

Farm to school activities can support environmentally sound, sustainable and socially just approaches to food production, processing, packaging, transportation and marketing. Farm to school activities may promote an ecological ethic among participants, develop infrastructure that supports healthy environments and promote agriculture and food distribution practices that mitigate climate change.

Student Health and Achievement

Farm to school is a school-based strategy that focuses on creating a healthy school food environment.¹ Farm to school activities support children's development of healthy eating habits—such as preferences for and consumption of fruits and vegetables—while improving family food security by boosting the quality of school meal programs.²⁻⁵ Key outcomes include:

- Improvement in early childhood and K-12 eating behaviors, including choosing healthier options in the cafeteria; consuming more fruits and vegetables through farm to school meals and at home (+0.99 to +1.3 servings/day); consuming less unhealthy foods and sodas; reducing screen time; and increasing physical activity.⁶⁻³¹
- Increase in knowledge and awareness about gardening, agriculture, healthy eating, local foods and seasonality (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,26,31-33}
- Demonstrated willingness to try new foods and healthier options (in early childhood and K-12 settings).^{7,20-22,30-33}
- Enhanced overall academic achievement in K-12 settings; provides children with an understanding of agriculture and the environment; and improves life skills, self-esteem, social skills and behavior.³⁴⁻³⁵

Food Service Costs, Revenue, Interest

- Increase in student meal participation from 3 percent to 16 percent (average +9 percent), thus generating increased revenue through school meals programs.^{8-9,20-21,23-25,36}
- Improvements in food service operations, such as increased cafeteria offerings of fruits and vegetables; development of new seasonal recipes; and changes in cafeteria waste management policies.^{8-9,21,23-25,36,37}
- Improvement in food service staff motivation and morale; increase in knowledge and interest in local food preparation and seasonal recipes; and increase in interactions with teachers to strengthen classroom/cafeteria connections.^{7,22,38}

Benefits for Farmers

In general, purchases from local sources increase as farm to school programming matures, with potential local sourcing of up to 50 percent of all produce purchases in season.^{7-9,20,22-23,25,36-37,39}

- Average 5 percent increase in income from farm to school sales for individual farmers.^{7,9,20,22-23,36,39}
- Increase in market diversification; positive relationships with school districts, parents and community members; farmers contracted to plant crops for schools; opportunities to explore processing and preservation methods for institutional markets; establishment of grower collaboratives or cooperatives to supply institutional markets.³⁶⁻³⁷



Community and Economy

- Increase in community awareness and interest about purchasing local foods and foods served in school cafeterias.^{7,22}
- Increase in economic activity. In one study, each dollar invested in farm to school stimulated an additional \$2.16 of local economic activity.⁴⁰
- Strengthened connections within the state's food economy.⁴⁰
- Improved household food security.⁴⁰
- Creation and maintenance of jobs; for every job created by school districts purchasing local foods, additional economic activity would create another 1.67 jobs.⁴⁰

Teachers






















- Positive changes in teachers' diets and lifestyles; positive attitudes about integrating farm to school related information in curriculum.^{7,20-22, 30}

Parents

- Increase in ability and interest in incorporating healthier foods in family diets and guiding children in early childhood and K-12 age groups to make healthier choices; positive changes in shopping patterns reflecting healthy and local foods.^{7,20,22,27,33}
- Increase in knowledge among parents of young children about farmers' markets in the area.³³
- Increase among young children in asking their families to make healthier purchases.³³

Summary of Farm to School Benefits

The core elements of farm to school (local procurement, school gardens, food and farm related education) provide for unique crosssectoral outcomes and linkages in public health, community economic development, education and environmental quality.

Population	Benefits	Cross-sector Benefits
Students		
Fruit and vegetable consumption	Increased +0.99 to +1.3 servings/ day	Public Health 
Physical activity	Reduced screen time and increased physical activity	Public Health 
Food-system awareness	Increased knowledge regarding: gardening, agriculture, healthy food, local food, seasonality	Public Health 
Food choices	Willingness to try new and healthy food; choosing healthier options in the cafeteria and at home	Public Health  Education  Environmental Quality 
Academic achievement	Overall improvement (K-12)	Education 
Behavior	Improved life skills, self-esteem and social skills	Education 
Schools		
Meal participation	Average increase of 9% (range 3% to 16%)	Public Health  Economic Development 
Local Sourcing	Up to 50% of all produce purchases in season	Economic Development  Environmental Quality 
Improved cafeteria operations	Increased offerings of fruits and vegetables, new seasonal recipes, new waste management policies	Public Health 
Food service staff	Improved morale, increased knowledge	Education  Economic Development 
Teachers	Positive diet and lifestyle changes	Public Health 
Farmers		
Income	Average increase of 5%	Economic Development 
Markets	Increased diversification and new opportunities	Economic Development 
Community		
Economy	\$2.16 economic activity generated for every \$1 spent	Economic Development 
Job creation	Each new farm to school job contributes to the creation of additional 1.67 jobs	Economic Development 
Families	Increased food security and positive diet changes	Public Health 

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Re: SB 376

In support of bill "Relating to a Farm to School Program"

Dear Legislators,

I am writing you as President-Elect of the Hawai'i Dietetic Association (HDA). We have over 260 members in the state of Hawai'i including Guam and Saipan. The HDA is an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Our members are the trusted and credible source of food and nutrition information.

HDA supports SB 376 which establishes the School to Farm Program and a farm to school coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture. A successful Farm to School Program will increase the procurement of locally grown produce. Consuming locally grown produce can help to improve the health of our kaki because minimal transportation from farm to table means that more vitamins, mineral and other nutrients are retained in the foods. Providing students opportunities to participate in Farm to School initiatives will increase their physical activity, create a greater awareness of our food systems, and increase their interest in consuming more fruits and vegetables.

Most sincerely yours,

Justin Miyashiro, RDN, LD, CDE

President-Elect, Hawaii Dietetic Association

justinkmi@hawaii.rr.com, (808) 386-6826.



4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, March 19, 2015 – 8:30 AM – Room 312

RE: SB 376 SD2 - Relating to a Farm to School Program – In Support

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition strongly supports SB 376 SD2, which establishes the Hawai'i farm to school program and a farm to school coordinator position within the Department of Agriculture.

This measure will provide the necessary means for the foundation of a farm to school program in Hawai'i. This valuable program will allow students to gain access to healthy, local foods while stimulating the local economy. By dedicating a coordinator within the Department of Agriculture, this will ensure a coordinated effort that will ultimately benefit our students, farmers, and our community.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Local Food Coalition is pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. The Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food.

We respectfully ask for your support of SB 376 SD2. Thank you.

Lori Lum
808-544-8343
llum@wik.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 6:04 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB376

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Kakou Honorable Chair Tsiji, Vice-Chair Onishi, and Agriculture Committee members, HFUU strongly supports SB 376. We feel that the best way to get keiki to eat fresh produce is to get them interested at a young age, and make it a regular part of their lives. Presently the thing that ends up in the trash the most in school cafeterias across Hawaii is produce. To change this, children must be educated from a very young age how to grow, harvest, process and prepare food for consumption. The Senate has been holding regular meetings open to all who wish to attend trying to solve the issue of young school children getting exposed to fresh produce. This is the Farm to School Plus Committee, and it is a collaboration of legislators from both houses, HFBB, HFUU, DOE (State and Federal), HDOH, HDOA, Ulupono and others with interest in this subject. We believe that this measure, while it may not be perfect is a major step in the right direction with regards to the fact that it creates a job title for a person who will coordinate from within the HDOA getting students growing their own food and eating it. Mahalo for your support, Me ka ha'aha'a Simon Russell Hawaii Farmers Union United Legislative Committee Chairman

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TESTIMONY

House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 19, 2015, 8:30 a.m.

SB376 SD2: RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

The National Farm to School Network **strongly supports SB376 SD2**, which establishes a farm to school program and coordinator positions in the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education.

Farm to school/preschool is the practice of sourcing local food for K-12 schools and early care and education settings and providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, such as school gardens, farm field trips, and cooking lessons. Farm to school improves the health of children and communities while supporting local and regional farmers (<http://www.farmtoschool.org>). The National Farm to School Network (NFSN), founded in 2007, seeks to create strong and just local food systems that ensure the health of children, farms, the environment, the economy and communities. NFSN provides vision, leadership and support to connect and strengthen the farm to school movement, which includes tens-of-thousands of schools and early care settings in all 50 states and DC.

A recently released report, the "State Farm to School Legislative Survey: 2002-2013" (http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/State_Farm_to_School_Legislative_Survey_4_2014.pdf), highlights the growing commitment from US states and the District of Columbia to advance policies that promote farm to school. **As of February 2014, nineteen US states and the District of Columbia have established one or more farm to school coordinator positions at the state level in their departments of agriculture, education, and/or university systems.** These states include: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Farm to school coordinators play a key role in the development of successful statewide farm to school programs through increased interagency and public-private sector communication and collaboration. They enhance local agriculture industries through support for farmers (e.g., in the areas of food safety, food hubs, farm field trips for students), facilitate increased education opportunities for students (e.g., school gardens, nutrition education, cooking lessons), strengthen school meal and snack programs through support for school cafeterias and staff and increased procurement of fresh locally grown foods, and are able to accurately inform effective policy making around farm to school.

Considering the proven benefits of farm to school programs (see "The Benefits of Farm to School," <http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/BenefitsFactSheet.pdf>) in the areas of agriculture, education, health, and the economy, your investment in the creation of a state-level farm to school program and coordinator positions in both the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture and Education will be returned manifold.

We welcome any questions you may have, and we thank you for your efforts to advance farm to school.



NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK
A PROJECT OF TIDES CENTER

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

Sincerely,

Anupama Joshi
Executive Director & Co-Founder
National Farm to School Network

Helen Dombalis
Policy and Strategic Partnerships Director
National Farm to School Network

Stacey Sobell
Western Regional Lead
National Farm to School Network

Natalie Talis
Policy Associate
National Farm to School Network



To: The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair, Committee on Agriculture
The Honorable Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair, Committee on Agriculture
Members, House Committee on Agriculture

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: March 17, 2015

Hrg: House Committee on Agriculture; Thursday. March 19, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in Rm 312

Re: **Support for SB 376, SD2, Relating to a Farm to School Program**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of** Senate Bill 376, SD2, which will create a farm to school program in the Department of Agriculture and to provide funding for two farm to school coordinator positions to oversee the State's farm to school program.

The Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a health Hawaii. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawaii the healthiest place on earth.

There is a growing trend of childhood obesity in Hawaii with approximately 1 out of 4 children entering Kindergarten are overweight or obese. There is a growing demand for farm to school programs nationally. According to Oregon's Department of Agriculture and Department of Education, a successful farm to school program can increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, preference for fresh fruits and vegetables, and improve academic achievement and behavior. Oregon State Coordinators work together and with stakeholders to increase educational opportunities and the procurement of locally grown foods for schools, encouraging students' consumption of locally grown foods.

Farm to school activities have been proven to support a nutritious school food environment and more than 85 percent of youth in Hawaii attend public schools. Students who participate in farm to school activities are more likely to be familiar with, prefer and consume more fruits and vegetable at school and at home. Establishing healthy behaviors at an early age can help to prevent the onset of chronic disease and other health conditions later in life. The leading causes of death in Hawaii are heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, all illnesses that are often associated with dietary behaviors. There are currently at least twenty states that have established farm to school programs and coordinator positions to improve the health of children through the support of school gardens, health and nutrition education, agriculture, and the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks.

HIPHI supports SB 376, SD2, which would use monies from general revenues of the State of Hawaii to establish two full-time farm to school coordinator positions, one in the Department of Education and one in the Department of Agriculture, for FY 2015-2016 (\$150,000.00 each). The two coordinators will work in collaboration with one another, as well as other stakeholders, to address issues of supply, demand, procurement, and consumption of Hawaii-grown foods in state facilities, primarily education facilities, and take reasonable steps to incorporate more agriculture and nutrition education in schools.

850 Richards St., Suite 201 | Honolulu, HI 96813 | T 808.591.6508

hiphi.org



For the keiki of Hawaii, we respectfully ask you to pass SB 376, SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 19, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 376 SD 2
RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports SB 376 SD 2, which seeks to establish the Hawaii Farm to School Program and two farm to school coordinator positions.

HFB strongly supports increased use of locally grown agricultural products, fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy and poultry products in our schools and other public institutions. This will truly be a significant step towards increasing our levels of self-sufficiency. HFB also believes that learning where food comes from is an important part of our children's education. Agriculture education involves more than just learning the basics of food production, it provides the opportunity for our children to understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture.

Many formal and informal studies have been done addressing farm to school programs and we understand the Department of Agriculture (DOA) has also done some work in this area in the past. Our farmers and ranchers have tried to work with the procurement system and can speak to the shortcomings of the system. For example, supplying a school or schools within a geographic area is feasible, but providing to the entire school system is not. Focus should now be on working with the procurement system to make institutional markets accessible while considering the capacity of farmers and ranchers in Hawaii. Assistance to farmers on how to navigate the system should be a priority.

HFB recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization we would like to see increased emphasis of agriculture in schools. We believe that school farms serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, science, business planning, entomology, pathology and various technologies including programming, navigation and robotics are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Programs that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. The purpose of the farm should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce should be a vital component of this program. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue the various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawaii agriculture. HFB supports programs and initiatives such as the FFA, 4-H, and Farm to School programs because they help to educate and reconnect our children with agriculture. Through agricultural education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawaii's agriculture industry and will contribute to Hawaii's food security.

This should be viewed as an investment in Hawaii's future to develop well-informed consumers and supporters of our local agricultural industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kendraroz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB376

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kendra Ozaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:57 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB376

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:57 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB376

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Effective date 2050?! That's ridiculous!! It should be implemented and put into effect much sooner than that! I want this to happen in my lifetime, not after I'm dead! This program is much needed to teach and educate our youth about where their food comes from, to learn to eat good nutritious food to lead healthy quality lives. Garden science can be integrated with every education discipline, in particular STEM types of courses. Please support and pass this bill and please don't wait until 2050 to implement it.

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:52 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tiana@farmtokeiki.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB376

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Kamen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 5:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB376

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

SB376

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tylerk03@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB376

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Kruse	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:37 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lakimura@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB376

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lance Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I believe that SB 376 is the right step in the right direction to put Hawaii on course for a better future. 1) it would create new market opportunities for Hawaii farmers. Second, it would reduce Hawaii's dependence on imports. 3) Create jobs in the agricultural industry and break our dependency on the traditional sectors. I strongly believe that this is a great opportunity for the State.

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 12:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

LATE

SB376

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

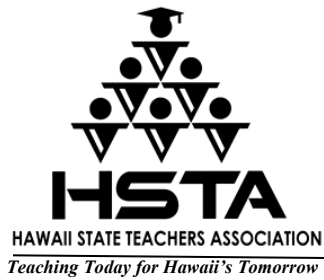
Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

RE: S.B. 376, S.D. 2 - RELATING TO A FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i's 13,500 public and public charter school teachers, The Hawai'i State Teachers' Association is in **support of S.B. 376, S.D. 2.**

We are an island state with a long history of connection to the land that predates western contact. Throughout Hawai'i's history, the land and that which that land produces has been essential in the sustainability of our people and our economy.

In recent history, our "disconnect" with the land and our almost sole reliance on food from other shores has put our citizens in a precarious state. While we are all closely monitoring the labor dispute related to shipping to Hawai'i and its potential impact on our food supplies, we are also aware of the growing number of food recalls that are also occurring.

Support S.B. 376, S.D. 2 will provide an opportunity for Hawai'i's youngest, school aged citizens to learn how to mitigate some of these challenges while learning how to reconnect with the land.

In providing opportunities for students to ultimately participate in Farm to School initiatives that may help them learn to grow fruits and vegetables in small areas, we help them understand that small steps can provide big outcomes.

In helping our teachers better learn how to support and teach towards sustainability, we make it more likely for Hawai'i to become more self-sustaining.

HSTA supports the concept of living and promoting sustainability. We know that the best leaders are our students. As such, we are in **support of S.B. 376, S.D. 2.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 4:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

LATE

SB376

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: tab@mac.com
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LATE

SB376

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Blume	Individual	Support	No

Comments: For the health of our keiki and community, please pass SB376.

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Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:33 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: antya@gonorthshore.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB376 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM

SB376

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antya Miller	North Shore Chamber of Commerce	Support	No

Comments: The Chamber supports efforts to develop Ag programs in the schools. Having the state purchase local products is very important to support local food production. Thank you, Antya Miller

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